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DEPARTMENT FOR S/ES-CR, S/ES-O, EUR/WE

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SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

REF: STATE 118192

¶1. Following is the text of a congratulatory message to the President-elect from the Captains Regents of the Republic of San Marino. The letter has been translated from Italian.

¶2. Begin text:

Mr. President-elect:

On behalf of all the citizens from San Marino, we convey to you our deepest and sincere congratulations for your election to 44th President of the United States of America. The vote of yesterday, November 4, 2008, has shown the entire world that, in a great Country, in a great Democracy, the dream becomes true.

We strongly wish you to fully realize this "dream" during your mandate with the help and support of the American people, and we firmly believe that millions of San Marino citizens who found a second homeland and a new life in the U.S., will join American people with enthusiasm and determination.

We strongly hope that your election and your presence will contribute to restoring peace in those countries destroyed by years of war. Our small Country will be at your side in such commitment, with its limited forces but with all the necessary enthusiasm and heart.

Respectfully yours,

The Captains Regents
Ernesto Benedettini - Assunta Meloni. End text.

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